Official Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Energy/ National Nuclear Security Administration Production Office Pantex Plant

Through proposed action evaluation, as required under Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1021 (10 CFR 1021), the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration Production Office (DOE/NNSA/NPO) has determined that an environmental assessment (EA) is required for the proposed Material Staging Facility (MSF) Project at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas.

NPO proposes to design, construct, and operate a new facility, MSF, which would provide that the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) have the capability and capacity to support weapons stockpile schedule commitments through nuclear weapon and nuclear weapon component staging for current and future workloads. Currently, all available staging facilities at the Pantex Plant are near capacity and experiencing additional maintenance due to the age of the facilities. The MSF would provide a modern staging facility to replace the existing staging facilities. The EA would not address the demolition of obsolete facilities.

NPO will prepare an EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the DOE regulations for implementing NEPA (10 CFR 1021). Based on the analysis in the EA, NPO will either prepare a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and proceed with the action, or prepare an environmental impact statement if the EA reveals the potential for significant adverse environmental impact. A Notice of Availability of the Pre-Approval EA will be advertised so that stakeholders and interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on the EA.

Comments/Input related to this Notice of Intent should be sent by February 20, 2020 to: Environmental Assessment Notice of Intent, Mr. Steven Wyatt, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA), NNSA Production Office (NPO), PO Box 2050, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 or by E-mail at Steven.Wyatt@npo.doe.gov. For information on this proposed action, Mr. Wyatt may be contacted by means listed above or by telephone at (865) 576-9918 or fax (865) 576-1237.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DOE NEPA PROCESS: Information on general DOE NEPA-related information is available from: The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20), 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0119 or leave a message on the toll-free number: 1-800-472-2756; fax: 202-586-7031; or e-mail AskNEPA@hq.doe.gov.